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ANNUAL REPORT
OF
South Carolina Department
of Veterans Affairs

FISCAL YEAR 1984-85

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Submitted by
Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina
September 1, 1985

ANNUAL REPORT

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Submitted by

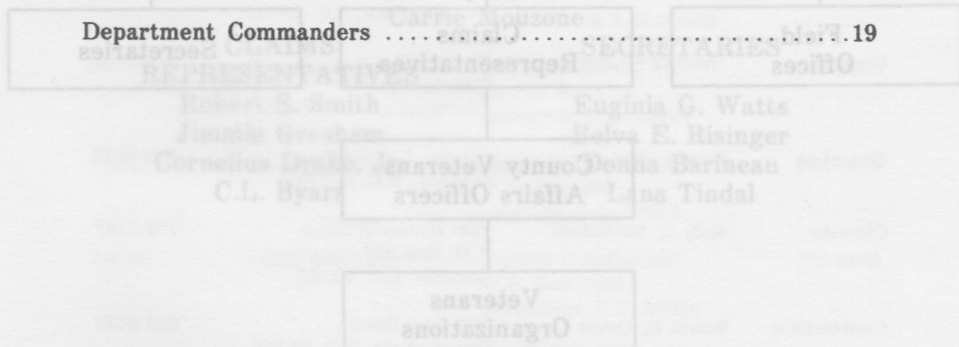
Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S.C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina

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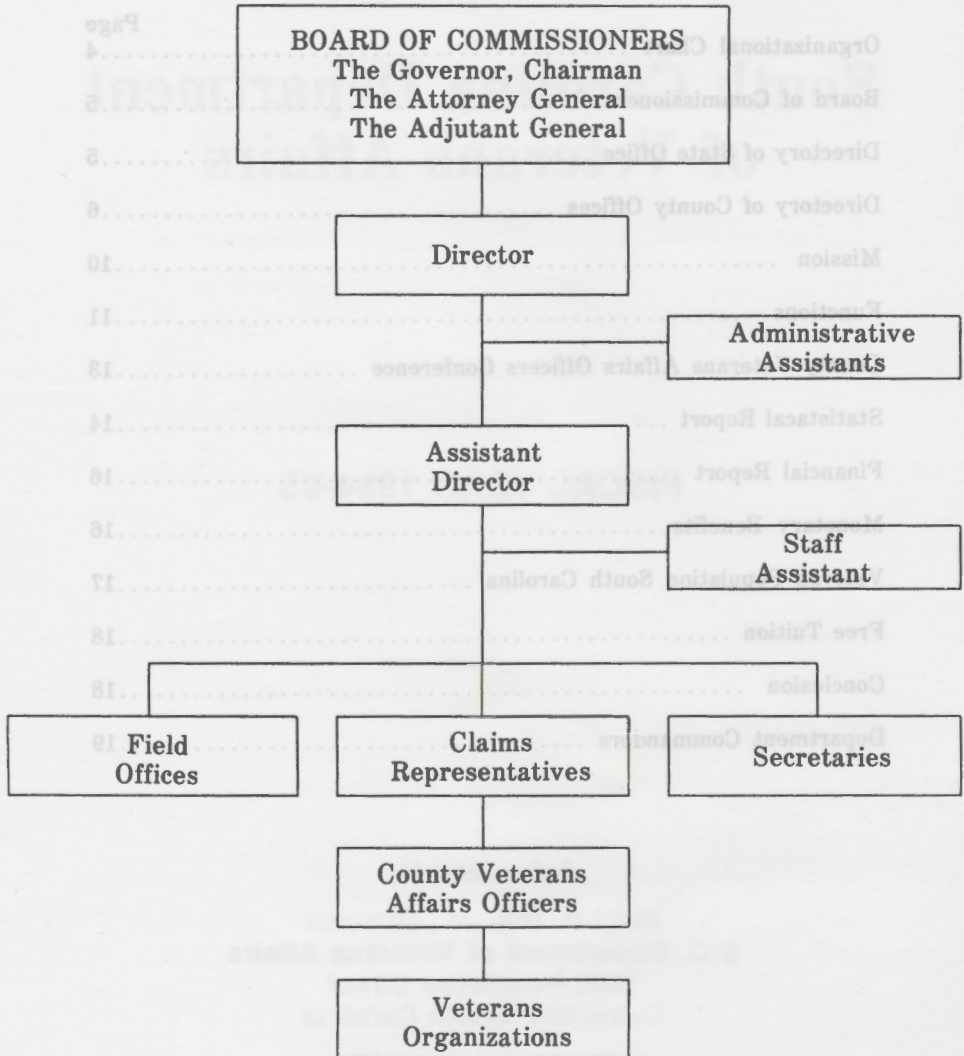
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HONORABLE RICHARD W. RILEY
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HONORABLE T. TRAVIS ESTON MARCHANT
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**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina

Honorable T. Travis Medlock Honorable T. Eston Marchant

Attorney General
of South Carolina

Adjutant General
of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201

Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bill J. Sams

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Beverly J. Shirley
Linda S. Skipper

FIELD OFFICE SUPERVISORS

Lawrie H. Harmon
Thomas E. Schmidt

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Kathryn Noble
Carrie Mouzone

CLAIMS

REPRESENTATIVES

Robert S. Smith
Jimmie Gresham
Cornelius Drake, Jr.
C.L. Byars

SECRETARIES

Eugenia G. Watts
Belva E. Risinger
Donna Barineau
Lana Tindal

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S.C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Wayne S. Lethgo	828 Richland St., West Aiken, S.C. 29801	649-3481 Ex. 190
Allendale	George H. Kearse	703 Pine St. Allendale, S.C. 29180	584-4226
Anderson	Allen Thomas	Anderson Co. Office Bldg. 107 S. Main St. Suite 110 Anderson, S.C. 29003	261-4036
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P.O. Box 416 Bamberg, S.C. 29003	245-2492
Barnwell	Douglas Gene Rowell	T. Edward Richardson Bldg. Highway 278, West P.O. Box 871 Barnwell, S.C. 29812	259-7161 Ex. 20
Beaufort	C.B. Epps, Jr.	1713 Prince St. P.O. Box 97 Beaufort, S.C. 29902	524-4444 Ex. 344
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street P.O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S.C. 29461	899-2222
Calhoun	Robert C. Weaver, Jr.	117 Liberty St. St. Matthews, S.C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S.C. 29403	723-6702
Cherokee	Boyd L. McLean	County Courthouse Gaffney, S.C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	Judy C. McWaters	War Memorial Bldg. P.O. Box 957 Chester, S.C. 29709	385-6157
Chesterfield	Edwin M. Davis	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S.C. 29706	623-2482
Clarendon	Harold DuPree	14 Church St. Manning, S.C. 29102	435-2527

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Colleton	James Hollon Platt	Agriculture Building P.O. Box 627 Walterboro, S.C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Boyd W. Curry	County Courthouse Darlington, S.C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	George M. Pullie	City-County Office Bldg. Dillon, S.C. 29536	744-4133
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	County Courthouse P.O. Box 661 St. George, S.C. 29477	563-2331 Ex. 216
Edgefield	Betty H. Sexton	400 Church St. P.O. Box 5 Edgefield, S.C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Charles A. Medlin	117 East Washington St. P.O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S.C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette	City-County Complex Box T Florence, S.C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Arthur Joseph	County Office Building P.O. Box 306 Georgetown, S.C. 29442	546-7734
Greenville	J.R. Dryman	1200 Pendleton St. Greenville, S.C. 29611	298-8698
Greenwood	Lewis E. Pinson	Room 108 County Courthouse, Rm. 100 Greenwood, S.C. 29646	229-550
Hampton	Mrs. Leola Bennett	201 Jackson St. R. 105 West Hampton, S.C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	Horry County Courthouse P.O. Box 385 Conway, S.C. 29936	248-6247
Jasper	Leroy Blackshear	County Courthouse P.O. Box 1536 Ridgeland, S.C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P.O. Box 691 Camden, S.C. 29020	432-4096

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Lancaster	Wade H. Hayes	208 W. Gay St P.O. Box 730 Lancaster, S.C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	Charles T. Knight	Courthouse Annex P.O. Box 193 Laurens, S.C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	James F. Sellers, Jr.	105 Courthouse Square P.O. Box 461 Bishopville, S.C. 29010	484-5341 Ex. 254
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	219 E. Main St. Memorial Bldg. Lexington, S.C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	T.C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building P.O. Box 247 McCormick, S.C. 29835	465-2212
Marion	Joe S. Lane, Sr.	100 West Court Street P.O. Box 519 Marion, S.C. 29571	423-6732
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P.O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S.c. 29512	479-2651
Newberry	Allen W. Morrison	1306 Hunt St. P.O. Box 217 Newberry, S.C. 29108	276-3233
Oconee	Harrison E. Orr	Law Enforcement Center South Church St. Walhalla, S.C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	John E. Rivers	County Courthouse Orangeburg, S.C. 29116	533-1000
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	Old County Health Building P.O. Box 451 Pickens, S.C. 29671	878-4778
Richland	David N. Denton	Suite 409 1701 Main Street Columbia, S.C. 29201	748-4662
Saluda	C.C. Riddle	P.O. Box 307 Saluda, S.C. 29138	445-8848
Spartanburg	Ruth L. Wallen	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S.C. 29301	585-4811 Ex. 266

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Sumter	Louis Fleming	County Courthouse Rm. 100 Sumter, S.C. 29150	773-6440
Union	Robert T. Eubanks	County Courthouse Union, S.C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	W.J. Small, Jr.	Office -6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S.C. 29556	354-6352
York	Roddey Wayne Beard	304 SCN Bank Bldg. P.O. Box 11114 Rock Hill, S.C. 29730	327-2956

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose of "assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to ensure stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of th war veterans and ex-servicement and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are approximately 350,000 living veterans in South carolina as of June 30, 1985, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically — All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administra-

tion is not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about the favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have may "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veteran's benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.

11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.
12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demand for our services come not only from County Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by cor-

respondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In October, 1984, the annual conference on Income-Questionnaires was sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staff.

In addition to our county personnel, representatives from the major Veterans Organizations were present along with officials from the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston, and Augusta.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing, thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S.C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park Health Center which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY: 1984-85.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Claims:

Compensation, Pension, Education, Insurance and Reopened	2,806
Correction of Discharge/Records	35
Correspondence:	
Letters Dictated & Forms prepared	1420
Hearings Conducted	267
Interviews	2,623

Mail:

Incoming and Outgoing	6,199
Telephone Calls:	
Incoming and Outgoing	11,320
VA Files Reviewed	2,261

Visits to:

CVAO's, Hospital Wards, VA Hospitals, VA Regional Office	944
Consultations	1,975

Files:

Files/Cards processed (requisitioned, received, filed, new files made	4,328
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Legislative Material:

Calendars, Journals, Bills, Files for Bills	2,909
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Miscellaneous:

Newspaper articles clipped, errands, messages relayed, award letters sent	20,425
Visitors Received	949
Conferences/meetings attended	38

FORTY-SIX COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Office Contacts	346,476
Letters and Communications Received	124,904
Official Visits to VA Installations, Department of Veterans Affairs and other points outside County ...	1,679
Miles traveled on official business	260,910
Compensation Claims prepared, reopened, and appealed	7,978
D.I.C. claims prepared for dependents	2,822
Insurance claims & inquiries & other action on all insurance & Pension Claims	14,642
Applications for hospital treatment	13,200
Requests for payment of burial expenses	8,656
Applications for GI education and training	4,572
Veterans visited in VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc.	3,838
Applications for Correction of Military Records and/or Discharge Change	1,650
Miscellaneous assistance given	58,032

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1984-85

Expenditures:

Personal Services.....	358,968
Operating Expenses	
Contractual Services.....	8,901
Supplies.....	5,998
Fixed Charges & Contributions.....	25,489
Travel.....	14,618
Equipment.....	4,790
Total.....	59,796
Operation of County Offices.....	538,030
World War I Veterans.....	2,351
Employer Contributions.....	68,481
TOTAL Expenditures.....	1,027,626

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is an estimated report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependents survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985.

Compensation & Pension.....	201,752,550
Readjustment & Vocation Rehabilitation.....	41,154,591
Insurance & Indemnities.....	13,046,200
Construction and Related Costs.....	3,455,547
Medical Services & Administrative	
Costs.....	93,298,584
TOTAL spent by VA in South Carolina	
fiscal year 1984.....	352,707,472

**ESTIMATED VETERAN POPULATION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 30, 1984**

County	Total Veterans
ABBEVILLE	2,250
AIKEN	13,020
ALLENDALE	760
ANDERSON	15,620
BAMBERG	1,300
BARNWELL	1,850
BEAUFORT	7,240
BERKELEY	11,010
CALHOUN	1,220
CHARLESTON	33,725
CHEROKEE	4,480
CHESTER	3,050
CHESTERFIELD	3,735
CLARENDON	2,200
COLLETON	3,005
DARLINGTON	5,800
DILLON	2,390
DORCHESTER	7,060
EDGEFIELD	1,410
FAIRFIELD	2,005
FLORENCE	11,580
GEORGETOWN	4,590
GREENVILLE	35,870
GREENWOOD	6,700
HAMPTON	1,575
HORRY	12,140
JASPER	1,200
KERSHAW	4,340
LANCASTER	5,555
LAURENS	5,670
LEE	1,175
LEXINGTON	18,440
MARION	2,800
MARLBORO	2,440
McCORMICK	670
NEWBERRY	3,130

OCONEE	5,440
ORANGEBURG	7,085
PICKENS	9,070
RICHLAND	34,700
SALUDA	1,690
SPARTANBURG	23,650
SUMTER	8,670
UNION	3,250
WILLIAMSBURG	2,660
YORK	12,780
TOTAL	350,000

VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICE

CONNECTED COMPENSATION.....24,679

VETERANS DRAWING NONSERVICE

CONNECTED PENSION.....12,270

WIDOWS RECEIVING SERVICE

CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS.....5,532

WIDOWS RECEIVING NONSERVICE

CONNECTED DEATH BENEFITS.....14,774

FREE TUITION

This agency administers the Free Tuition Program for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of Section 59-111-20 of the 1971 Code of Laws, as amended.

During the last fiscal year, a total of 287 applications were approved for Free Tuition for all college, technical schools or technical institutions. The total number for the past 14 years is 6,079.

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners:

Honorable Richard W. Riley, Governor; Honorable J. Eston Marchant, The Adjutant General; and Honorable T. Travis Medlock, The Attorney General.

**1985-86
DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS
OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

**Telephone
Number**

Mr. R.M. Singletary, Jr.
Department Commander
The American Legion
Route 1, Box 70
Cross, S.C. 29436

(R) 753-2634

Mr. Michael J. Truscello
Department Commander
Disabled American Veterans
Route 3, Box 167
Leesville, S.C. 29070

(R) 532-3193

(O) 791-4422

Mr. Thomas E. Morris
Department Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
P.O. Box 1001
Gaffney, S.C. 29340

(R) 489-8644

(O) 489-8726

Mrs. Hazel B. Howell
Department Commander
AMVETS
1727 Pinewood Dr.
Columbia, S.C. 29205

(R) 799-2288

Mr. E.F. McAlhany
 Department Commander
 Veterans of WWI of the USA, Inc.
 3310 Abingdon Rd.
 Columbia, S.C. 29203

(R) 252-2892

Mr. Richard D. LaBarre
 President
 Vietnam Veterans of S.C., Inc.
 P.O. Box 2001
 Columbia, S.C. 29202

(R) 254-3005

(O) 252-6266

Mr. James A. Campbell
 Department Commander
 American Ex—Prisoners of War, Inc.
 7719 Exeter Lane
 Columbia, S.C. 29206

(R) 736-1418

Mr. Alonzo A. Muldrow
 National Service Officer
 Paralyzed Veterans of America, Room 226
 c/o Veterans Administration Regional Office
 1801 Assembly St.
 Columbia, S.C. 29201

(O) 765-5758

This agency administers the Free Tuition Law for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of the 1971 Code of Laws as amended. During the last fiscal year, a total of 287 applications were approved for Free Tuition for all college, technical schools or technical institutions. The total number for the past 14 years is 4,676.

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners:

Honorable Richard W. Riley, Governor; Honorable J. Esten Marchant, The Adjutant General; and Honorable T. Travis Medlock, The Attorney General.